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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant

: Kenji ASAKURA et al.

Group Art Unit: 3742

Appl. No.

: 10/541,498 (U.S. National Stage of PCT/JP2003/016430)

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For

: IMAGE HEATING APPARATUS AND IMAGE FORMING

APPARATUS

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Commissioner for Patents U.S. Patent and Trademark Office Customer Service Window, Mail Stop Amendment Randolph Building 401 Dulany Street Alexandria VA 22314

Sir:

In response to the Official Action of January 9, 2008, in which a three-month shortened statutory period for response was set to expire on April 9, 2008, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the herein contained amendments and remarks.

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 2 of this Response.

Remarks begin on page 14 of this Response.